



## **Why support U.S. EPA sole source designation for the Mahomet Aquifer?**

**The Mahomet Aquifer is a vital source of water for central Illinois.** The Mahomet Aquifer provides the primary source of drinking water for municipalities and homeowners in 14 Illinois counties. It is the sole source of water for residents of the Cities of Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy, as well as other central Illinois communities. The aquifer provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people. The Aquifer also supports thousands of commercial, industrial, and agricultural water users.

**The Mahomet Aquifer is vulnerable to contamination.** A wide variety of chemicals and hazardous substances may pose a threat to our underground water resources. While most of the Mahomet Aquifer is well-protected from contamination by layers of clay, it can still be vulnerable. The Clinton Landfill company has made a request to the U.S. EPA for permission to dispose of industrial wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at its landfill site located directly over the Aquifer. PCBs are toxic organic compounds that are known carcinogens regulated by the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

**The Aquifer needs to be preserved for future generations.** If we don't act to protect the Aquifer now, future generations may be unable to rely on it as a source of clean water. A "sole source aquifer" (SSA) designation will make it clear to the U.S. EPA that the aquifer is a vitally important source of water for central Illinois. The U.S. EPA has the authority to approve or deny the Clinton Landfill company's request to dispose of PCBs. SSA designation may impact its decision on this issue, as well as requests to conduct other potentially environmentally hazardous activities over the Aquifer.

**SSA Designation provides additional federal protection of the Aquifer.** U.S. EPA designation of the Aquifer as a sole source aquifer provides added protection by requiring U.S. EPA review of all federally funded projects to ensure that they will not harm this vital source of water. SSA designation can also provide additional protections from the Illinois EPA.

**Protecting the Aquifer supports agriculture.** Agriculture is a vital part of the Illinois economy. The Aquifer supports agriculture by providing a source of clean water for irrigation and other rural and farm-related uses. SSA designation will not affect the vast majority of farming operations. Only agricultural projects that require federal funding, not including farming subsidies, would be reviewed.

For more information – [ci.champaign.il.us/aquifer](http://ci.champaign.il.us/aquifer).